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# U.S. granted delay in trial of man accused of impersonating CIA agent

By Allegra Bennett

Citing the unavailability of necessary testimony from Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., and the possible disclosure of classified information, federal prosecutors yesterday obtained a delay in the trial of a former University of Maryland employee who is charged with impersonating a CIA agent.

Catherine Blake, an assistant U.S. attorney, told Chief Judge Edward S. Northrop in federal court yesterday that the government needed more time to investigate its case against Wade A. Joliff, Jr., because it is a "complex and unusual one" and because information is needed from high-level witnesses.

Ms. Blake said the government's investigation of the case has been stalled because three of those witnesses, including Mr. Haig, have not been available to answer questions from the FBI and prosecutors. The prosecutors cited Mr. Haig's confirmation hearings and many official duties in recent weeks as the reasons for the delay.

The other witnesses are Adm. Stansfield Turner, former director of central intelligence, and Adm. Thomas B. Hayward, chief of naval operations.

The impersonation charge against Mr. Joliff, 54, of Arnold, involves an alleged scheme in which the government contends he fraudulently obtained loans totaling more than \$65,000 from three

persons with the promise that the money, which was purportedly for use in Central Intelligence Agency operations, would be repaid with agency funds.

Among the lenders was B. Dixon Evander, an insurance broker who provides the medical malpractice insurance for doctors at University Hospital. Mr. Joliff, who is currently suspended from his University of Maryland post, was formerly in charge of purchasing and insurance contracts for the downtown campus and

worked on behalf of a bill passed by the General Assembly last year that enabled Mr. Evander to continue providing the malpractice insurance.

Mr. Joliff, who the FBI said worked for the CIA until 1971, contends he was not impersonating a CIA agent but was actually still employed by the agency. Mr. Joliff's lawyer, Dominic Iamelle, said information in some of the agency's classified material can prove that contention.

According to the indictment, Mr. Joliff set up what he claimed was a front company for a secret CIA project and solicited money from Mr. Evander and a Louisiana couple, Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Turnley, to cover initial expenses.

It was not until after the indictment was handed up that the prosecution realized the importance of Mr. Haig, Admiral Turner and Admiral Hayward as potential witnesses, Ms. Blake said.

According to the indictment, Mr. Joliff told the investors he knew Mr. Haig and showed them correspondence he said bore Mr. Haig's signature to persuade a number of them to participate in the so-called CIA project.

Ms. Blake said FBI attempts to interview Mr. Haig have been unsuccessful. "After repeated contacts, General Haig answered some questions through an aide but stated that he could not be available for an interview in the near future."

Judge Northrop rescheduled the March 9 trial of the case to April 21.

The prosecutor—citing a new law, the Classified Information Procedures Act—also asked the court yesterday to require Mr. Joliff to prove the relevance of secret material he is seeking to support his contention of continued CIA employment.

The act, which became effective last October, arose out of problems in prosecuting cases that may affect national security because a defendant once had access to classified information.

Under the act, the defendant is required to provide written notice that he expects to disclose classified information during the trial. That information is then reviewed by the trial judge to determine whether it is relevant to the defense.

Tagged "graymail legislation" by some investigators, the law places federal agencies in a position of choosing whether to allow certain secrets to come out at a public trial or dropping the charges, an investigator for the government said yesterday.